

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT Shortage of Western Currency DATE DISTR. 31 May 1955 ev

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. RD 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Czechoslovak import-export trade corporations are finding it increasingly difficult to make purchases in the West because of shortages of dollars and sterling. Such currency is now reserved by the Czechs almost entirely for strategic materials. ✓
2. Czech ability to earn foreign currency has been impaired by the failure of the sugar crop and overcutting of timber with the consequent need for reforestation. ✓
 25X1
 25X1
3. There are now admitted planning errors in the Czech economy. There is a surplus of heavy transport and certain machine tools for which the Czechs are finding it difficult to obtain a market, and they are short of the more readily saleable commodities.
4. Machine tools have been overproduced in the hope of obtaining a portion of the Western market but 25X1
the Czechs have so far been unsuccessful in penetrating this market.
5. Whereas the Czech trade corporations would formerly not permit a Western intermediary to do business on their behalf in a country in which they had either an official representative or an established pattern of trade, they are now prepared to do barter transactions through anyone and with any country. 25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT